

wide cultivated plain of Silakhor, with its  
many villages;  
the winding Ab-i-Diz, its yellow crops, hardly  
distinguish-  
able from the yellow soil and hazy yellow  
hills whose  
many spurs descend upon the plain—all  
merged in a  
haze of dust and heat. The eye is not  
tempted to  
linger long upon that specimen of a Persian  
summer  
landscape, but turns with relief to the other  
side of the  
ridge, to a confused mass of mountains of  
great height,  
built up of precipices of solid rock, dark gray,  
weathered  
into black and denuded of soil, a mystery of  
chasms, rifts,  
and river-beds, sheltering and feeding  
predatory tribes,  
but unknown to the rest of the world.

The chaos of mountain summits, chasms,  
and precipices is very remarkable, merging into lower  
and less  
definite ranges, with alpine meadows at  
great heights,  
and ravines much wooded, where charcoal is  
burned and  
carried to Burujird and Hamadan. Among  
the salient  
points of this singular landscape are the  
mighty Shuturun  
range, the peak of Kuh-i-Kargun on the other  
side of the  
Silakhor plain, the river which comes down  
from Lake  
Irene, the Holiwar, with the fantastic range of  
the Kuh-  
i-Haft-Kuh (seven peaks) on its left bank,  
descending  
abruptly to the Ab-i-Zaz, beyond which again  
rises the  
equally precipitous range of the Kuh-i-  
Kuhbar. Near  
the Holiwar valley is a mountain formed by a  
singular  
arrangement of rocky buttresses, surmounted  
by a tooth-  
like rock, the Tuk-i-Karu, of which the guide  
told the  
legend that in " ancient times " a merchant

did a large  
trade in a tent at the top of it, and before he  
died buried  
his treasure underneath it.

A very striking object from the top is the  
gorge or  
canon, the Tang-i-Bahrain, by which the Ab-i-  
Burujird  
leaves the plain of Silakhor and enters upon  
its rough  
and fretted passage through ravines, for the  
most part in-  
accessible except to practised Ilyat  
mountaineers.